

## Office of the Governor Social-Media Policy

**Social-Media Platforms.** This document constitutes the Office of the Governor’s Social-Media Policy (the “Policy”). As described below, this Policy applies to the following social-media platforms:

- Facebook: facebook.com/govlarryhogan (the “Hogan Page”)
- Twitter: twitter.com/govlarryhogan, @govlarryhogan
- Snapchat: govlarryhogan
- YouTube: Governor Larry Hogan
- Instagram: instagram.com/govlarryhogan, @govlarryhogan
- Facebook: facebook.com/boydkrutherford (the “Rutherford Page”)
- Twitter: twitter.com/boydkrutherford, @boydkrutherford
- Instagram: instagram.com/boydkrutherford, @boydkrutherford
- Facebook:  
<http://www.facebook.com/State-of-Maryland-Constituent-Forum-342337622839367/> (the “Constituent Message Page”)

**Purposes.** The Hogan Page, Rutherford Page, and Twitter, Snapchat, YouTube, and Instagram platforms promote and disseminate information about Gov. Larry Hogan’s and Lt. Gov. Boyd Rutherford’s initiatives, events, and personal announcements, and are limited public forums for discussion with and among users about the posted initiatives, events, and personal announcements. The Constituent Message Page is a forum for discussion with and among users about any topic related to governmental concerns.

Vigorous, constructive conversations are encouraged within comments, messages, retweets, and other user communications (“Comments”). The Office of the Governor does not discriminate based on viewpoint, but may remove Comments and restrict access to users for violating this Policy. The Office of the Governor reviews Comments on all of its social-media platforms. The Office of the Governor is interested to hear the opinions of Maryland constituents through all of those platforms.

**Comments.** To facilitate the purposes of the social-media platforms, Comments may be removed if they contain, constitute, or link to:

- Malicious or harmful software;
- Advertisements, promotions, or solicitations of a commercial product or service;
- Confidential, personally identifying, or private information as defined by State law;
- Profanity, nudity, indecency, or obscenity;
- Threats of violence or to public safety<sup>1</sup>;
- Copyrighted materials in violation of State or federal law;
- Disruptively repetitive content;

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<sup>1</sup> Users that make express or implied threats of violence or to public safety may be reported to the Maryland State Police for investigation.

- For the Constituent Message Page, remarks that are clearly unrelated to governmental concerns; or
- For the Hogan Page, Rutherford Page, and Twitter, Snapchat, YouTube, and Instagram platforms, remarks that are clearly unrelated to the subject matter of any post ever made on the platform by or on behalf of the Governor or Lieutenant Governor.

**Rules.** The following rules apply to the social-media platforms:

- Any content removed pursuant to this Policy will be retained for one year.
- Users may be temporarily or permanently restricted from accessing the social-media platform if they repeatedly and consistently violate this Policy.
- To contest the restriction of access to a social-media platform, the user must submit to the Office of Correspondence & Constituent Services at [governor.mail@maryland.gov](mailto:governor.mail@maryland.gov) a written statement providing grounds for reinstatement. Requests shall be responded to on a reasonably timely basis, and access shall be restored if it is determined that the grounds for reinstatement are sufficient. A statement that the user will abide by this policy in the future shall be sufficient, except when a user has continued to violate the policy after having made such a statement.
- Users may contact the Office of Correspondence & Constituent Services at [governor.mail@maryland.gov](mailto:governor.mail@maryland.gov) at any time to identify Comments or other conduct in violation of the Policy. Until a Comment in violation of the Policy is removed, users should ignore it or, if responding, do so in compliance with the Policy.
- The Office of the Governor shall notify the public of any changes to this Policy and identify the changes.

**User-generated content.** The Office of the Governor monitors the social-media platforms, but is not responsible for content generated by users on these platforms. A Comment is the opinion of the commentator only. Publication of a Comment does not necessarily imply endorsement of, or agreement by, the State of Maryland, Governor Hogan, or Lieutenant Governor Rutherford. Comments and content should be understood to be entirely public, and users should not write Comments with any information that they consider, or would like to keep, confidential.